

Menu Item for addressing *Local or Unique Air Quality Issues*

TRIBAL AIR WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE: To identify special or unique local air quality issues, their impact on human health and the environment, options for addressing the concerns identified, and, as appropriate, implementing solutions.

Background: *Local or Unique Air Quality Issues* encompass a variety of air pollution problems that do not fall within any of the broader, more common, concerns that are found on reservations or in tribal communities. These, perhaps more than most Menu Item objectives, may require a customized response and may require research to determine what would be appropriate to the particular circumstances.

Funding Mechanism: This objective and supporting activities may qualify for EPA financial support through the grant authority of the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), or either of the Clean Air Act Sections §103 or §105 depending upon if the work is assessment of or investigation into causes and prevention the air quality problem, or actual implementation of a control strategy. Contact your nearest Regional EPA Tribal or Program Office for further information.

ACTIVITIES / TASKS: The following *tasks* or *activities* are options for a grant applicant to consider in developing a work plan that include activities related to unique or local air quality issues. Adapting these needs to respond to those of a specific reservation or tribal community is encouraged, taking into consideration for what purpose the monitoring data will be used. EPA Regional Offices are available to provide technical advice on what a particular tribe may require to adequately support their proposed workplan activities. A *timeline* is then created by estimating the dates by which each task, and sub-task, will be completed in order to accomplish the objective by the planned date.

- Based upon an initial air quality assessment (See menu topic: “Basic Air Quality Needs Assessment”), evaluate the existence and significance of any unique air quality issues or concerns, through conversations with community, managers, council, adjoining air quality jurisdictions, EPA and other federal agencies, and other appropriate sources. Such unique concerns may include: open burning of solid waste, agricultural field burning, forestry prescribed-burning, burn barrels, burning for land-clearing, and others.
- Network with others involved in addressing the same problem such as the solid waste program. Participate in policy groups that may exist for developing a regulatory response.
- Attend training to understand the causes and possible solutions to the problem.
- Provide education and outreach to the reservation community and tribal leadership on the issue, impact on tribe, and options for responding to the problem. Determine public and tribal position on the seriousness of the problem to the community, preferred responses, priority among other environmental and air quality concerns.
- Develop recommended approach to mitigating or monitoring the problem in the future.
- If regulatory response is an option, develop a plan for instituting a regulatory response and subsequent enforcement.
- For burning on Indian-owned land that is not on the reservation (e.g., land clearing for off-reservation casino development), evaluate the affected state’s open-burning rules and consider then as guidelines for Tribal activities.

Local or Unique Air Quality Issues

WORK PLAN RESULTS: Results from EPA grant funded activities (also known as “deliverables”) are characterized as either *outputs* or *outcomes*. Both are important means of documenting grant accomplishments. For explanation of *outputs* and *outcomes* see the Menu Item for *Air Quality Administration Infrastructure*

Possible Outputs: [These are examples of *outputs* for this objective; there may be others]

- Report analyzing the nature of the problem, its impact on human health and environment on the reservation, and sources of information used to identify the problem and its potential impact.
- A report on the networking conducted, policy groups and other agencies contacted, meetings attended, membership in policy groups and outcomes from such connections.
- Report on courses attended and how information gained was useful or not to understanding the problem and potential solutions.
- Report on education and outreach conducted and what was learned about the various positions held with regard to the air quality problem. This could include number of pamphlets distributed, number of speaking engagements, and changes to school environmental curricula.
- Report evaluation options for addressing the problem and any recommended option including why. This should include coordination with the Tribe’s solid waste management program. Should include documentation of the report being presented to tribal leadership and their response.
- Report on any regulatory type activities, copies of regulations proposed or passed , records of enforcement, improved practices, and *any evidence of mitigation* of the problem.

Possible Outcomes: [These are examples of *outcomes* for this objective; there may be others]

Expressed as a result of an individual Tribal grant:

Please, note: Several of the outputs (noted above with *italics*) can also be *outcomes* for an individual grant under this Menu Item. Thus, a report produced or a meeting held is indeed an *output*, however, if the report describes information gained, or changes resulting, or ameliorative actions, etc. then it is describing an *outcome*. For example - a programmatic outcome could be information gained and that could lead to another intermediate or programmatic outcome of ameliorative or mitigation actions taken which in turn would lead reduced pollutant emissions and in turn to an end outcome of improved air quality.

Expressed as a measure of overall Tribal program performance (over a stated baseline or cumulative total):

- Increase in the number of tribes that have participated in addressing a particular air quality concern and the nature of participation.
- Increase in instances where tribal effort on a local issue has made a documented impact in its being addressed, either by the tribe, or other state, local or federal agencies. For example, creation of an ongoing work group that developed a new strategy for dealing with the problem that became a model for others.
- Reduction in the number of complaints received regarding outdoor burning practices

FY 2006 NATIONAL EPA PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

- No specific measures for unique or local issues at this time, however, some outputs may be captured under performance measures such as monitoring, air quality management or rulemaking.